



Westside Lead Cleanup

Atlanta, Georgia

Residential Yard Cleanup To Expand

February 2020 Fact Sheet

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a public meeting to discuss plans to continue addressing lead contamination on some properties in Atlanta's Westside. Since 2018, the EPA has conducted residential soil sampling in English Avenue which includes 368 properties. Based on the data gathered so far, the sampling area is being expanded by approximately three blocks north to North Ave NW, west to Oliver St NW, south to Magnolia St NW and east to the old CSX rail line (see map on page 3). Residents gave the EPA permission to sample 136 properties in the study area and, of those, 71 require cleanup. Sampling is ongoing and additional properties may require cleanup.

EPA Public Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2020

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

YMCA of Metro Atlanta
Leadership & Learning Center
569 MLK, Jr. Drive NW
Atlanta, GA

EPA will be present to answer questions about the cleanup.

Contact Kyle Bryant for questions about the meeting or to confirm your property is in the expanded sampling area.

What to Expect

EPA has expanded the sampling area to include several additional blocks north, south and west of the current investigation area.

- This informational flyer is being mailed to residents and property owners in the new investigation area with access authorizations (forms giving EPA permission to sample their properties).
- EPA will be available on March 12th at the YMCA on MLK to answer questions from residents who may be affected by the expansion.
- If your property is sampled, EPA will inform you of the results and discuss any cleanup that may be needed.
- This is being done at **no cost** to residents or property owners.



Crew sampling a backyard.



Collected soil before processing.



Samples ready for analysis.

We Need Your Help

To date, the EPA has sampled 136 properties and we need your help to sample the rest. The EPA is offering soil testing at **no cost** to residents and property owners in the study area shown on the map (*page 3*), but we need your permission to sample your property. If you are a renter or owner, please reach out to one of the EPA contacts listed to learn how you can give the Agency permission to sample your yard.

The soil samples will be taken outside *of* your homes and residents/owners do not have to be present. Individual results will be kept confidential and shared directly with residents and property owners. Industrial and commercial properties will not be sampled under the EPA's current project.

Background

In 2018, an Emory University doctoral student shared data with the EPA showing elevated lead levels collected from soil samples in Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods. Research by the EPA led to the discovery of industrial smelting waste, called "slag," on two lots near Elm Street.

Sampling around the Elm Street and English Avenue areas indicated elevated lead levels above the Agency's recommended residential level of 400 milligrams per kilogram, also known as "parts per million" (ppm) are present in some, but not all, locations.

What You Can Do

We understand you may have questions about the possible contamination and what it means for you and your family. Residents and property owners are encouraged to reach out to the EPA contacts listed below to learn more. To learn how to limit exposure to lead, please visit the Georgia Department of Health's website at: <https://dph.georgia.gov/lead-education-and-faqs>. This website lists simple steps you can take to reduce your family's exposure to lead.

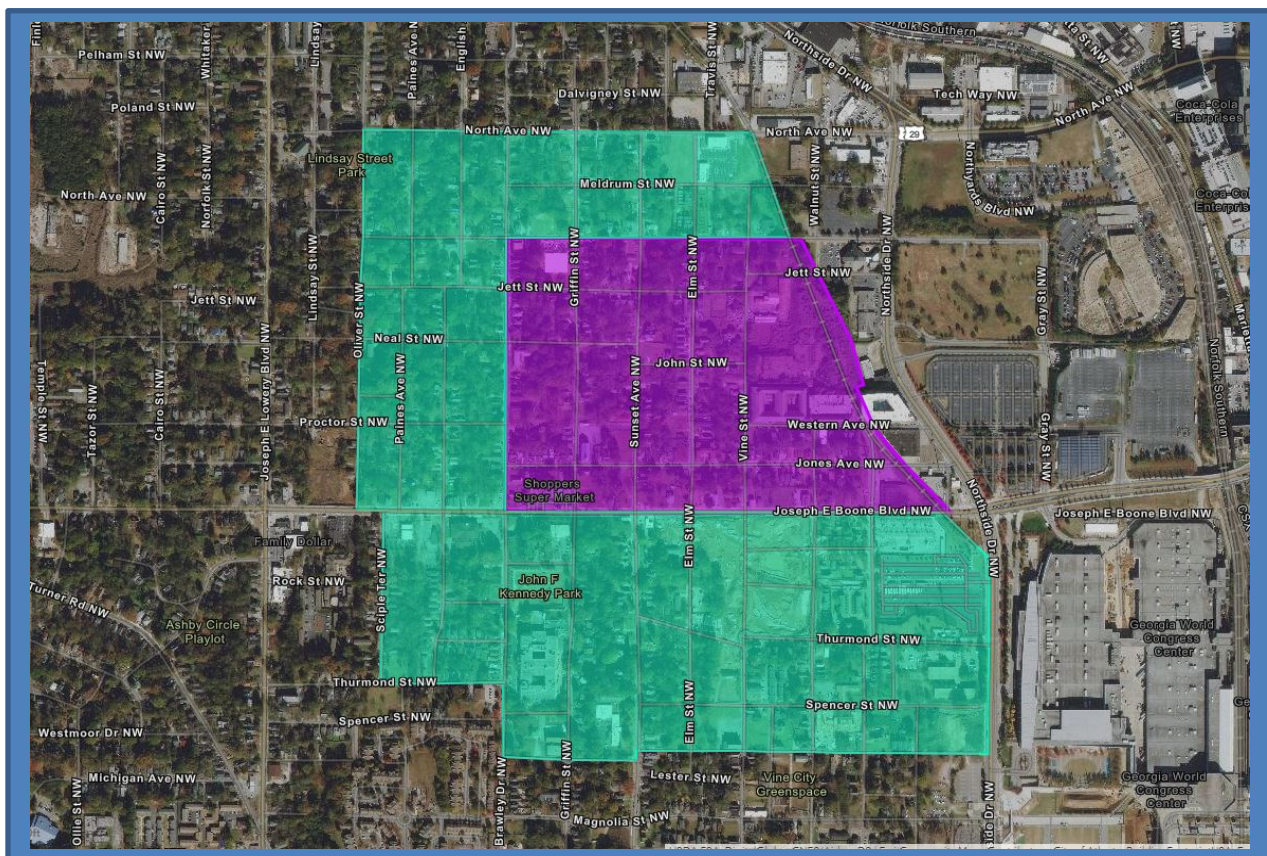
WESTSIDE LEAD CLEANUP PROGRESS



ABOUT 136 OF THE ORIGINAL 368 residential properties have been sampled.



Sampling is ongoing and more yards requiring cleanup may be identified.



Map of the initial Westside study area (purple) and the expanded area (green) (Courtesy of Google®)



WESTSIDE LEAD COMMUNITY HOTLINE: (678) 662-8603

EPA On-Scene Coordinators

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EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

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